

January 7, 1984

Index Tape 1/A

- :50 Robert Kim's father came to America around 1907 with his father's mother and probably landed in San Francisco. They were migrant workers following the crops.
- 1:40 His father learned and spoke English and became a labor contractor. His operation extended from the Delta to the olive harvest in Corning (California).
- 3:40 His mother grew up in a orphanage in Hawaii and then moved to San Francisco and then went to school in San Jose. She also speaks English fluently.
- 4:50 Robert Kim was born on January 11, 1924 in Sacramento (California). He recalled that his family was one of the few Korean families in Sacramento to speak only English in the home. His father belonged to the KNA (Korean National Association) and subscribed to a weekly called New Korea.
- 7:12 He grew in a poor section of town between 3rd and 4th on P Street. He went to Lincoln School, Sacramento High, and Sacramento City College. He also recalled from hear say that there was a Korean Language school located between 3rd and 4th on O Street. He, however, remembers the one located at 6th and R Street. The number of students may have numbered around 8 or 9 and was held everyday after regular school for two hours.
- 9:30 Korean church was located at 6th and R Streets. Rev. Im commuted from Oakland (California). He held two services, one in the morning for the children and one in the afternoon for the adults. The church remained at that location until WW II.
- 12:00 His father during the Depression worked in a bar and as a fry cook. The Big Meal Cafe and the Devil's Den was owned by O. H. Lee and the Cheung family ran the Palace Hotel on 2nd Street. These were the only businesses run by Koreans that Robert Kim could recall during the 1930's in Sacramento.

- 16:00 His father began rice farming around 1935 on a share basis with the landowner providing all the equipment and seeds. Prior to 1935 his father raised tomatoes around Tracy. At the height of rice farming, his father was farming 3,000 acres.
- 18:00 When WW II broke out, there was some concern in the the family that they might be mistaken for Japanese. They were also issued "I am Korean" button by the Korean National Association. During the War, Robert worked at the Chico flying school as a mechanic. He then was drafted February 7, 1943 at the induction (Buddhist Church, Sacramento) center. Was sent to Europe. After the War two families moved from Montana which brought the total Korean families to about 9 or 10 in Sacramento.
- 25:14 The Korean church began around the late 1960's and met at various places until they began to use the Fremont Presbyterian Church. Rev. Ko commuted from Los Angeles every weekend to conduct services when the church first began. He was followed by Rev. Chung and Rev. Lee. This church split and formed two congregation-- one moved to 65th Street and 14th Ave., the other built a new church in Rancho Cordova (both Presbyterian).

Index Tape 1/B--Robert Kim

- 2:00 Profiles current Korean business community.
- 4:00 Gives his views on the adjustment problems of the new immigrant and some tensions between the new comer and the Korean Americans who have been born and raised in America.
- 5:00 Some thoughts on growing up as a Korean American in Sacramento.